

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: LUNCHEON WITH DESARROLLISTA LEADERS

REF: CARACAS 6526 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE LATEST OF MY LUNCHEONS FOR VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND THEIR ENTOURAGES WAS AUGUST 8, IN HONOR OF DR. PEDRO TINOCO, JR. AND HIS DESARROLLISTAS. DR. TINOCO WAS FORMERLY CALDERA'S MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT HE IS NOW ON THE ATTACK AGAINST THE COPEI ADMINISTRATION

AND CANDIDATE AND OTHER PARTIES OF THE "ESTABLISHMENT." TINOCO IS THE CANDIDATE OF AN ASSEMBLAGE OF LIKE-MINDED (RIGHTIST) POLITICAL FIGURES

GROUPED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE DESARROLLISTA MOVEMENT AND THE PRO-

PEREZ JIMENEZ PARTIDO NACIONAL INTEGRACIONISTA. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF PEREZ JIMENEZ. HE IS RICH, SOPHISTICATED AND WISE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND HE CANNOT THIS YEAR WIN THE PRESIDENCY OF VENEZUELA.

2. TINOCO SEES HIMSELF AND HIS GROUP AS A MODERATE BULWARK AGAINST THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE LEFT IN VENEZUELA. HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES (WHO INCLUDE ONE OF VENEZUELA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LIVING

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HISTORIANSCT TOP ECONOMISTS, DEVELOPMENTAL EXPERTS AND

LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY) PREDICT THAT THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES TOGETHER CANNOT WIN 50 PCT OF THE TOTAL VOTES IN THIS ELECTION. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY BELIEVE, THEY WILL HOLD THE BALANCE OF INFLUENCE IN THE CONGRESS EVEN THOUGH THEIR CANDIDATE MAY NOT COME CLOSE TO WINNING MIRAFLORES. TINOCO'S CANDIDACY APPEARS TO BE, THEREFORE, A DEVICE TO MAKE HIM AND HIS BACKERS BETTER KNOWN AND MORE INFLUENTIAL IN FUTURE CAMPAIGNS. SINCE TINOCO IS ONLY 45 AND ALREADY HAS NATIONAL PROMINENCE, HE IS CLEARLY IN A POSITION TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THOSE CONTESTS TO COME.

3. TINOCO AND HIS PARTY OF FIVE OTHER DESARROLLISTA LEADERS WERE PLEASED TO BE INVITED TO THE RESIDENCE. THEY HAD NO PROFOUND POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE TO IMPART, BUT REITERATED TO ME AND MEMBERS OF MY STAFF THAT THIS SERIES OF LUNCHEONS IS A WELCOME DEVICE FOR AFFORDING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS FOR US AND VENEZUELA'S POLITICAL ELITE AT A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THIS COUNTRY'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

AND TINOCO EMPHASIZED THAT, WIN OR LOSE, HE AND HIS BACKERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE WARM FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

MCCLINTOCK

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